Reconstitution of regional censor Boards

105. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken steps to reconstitute the Regional Censor Boards;

(b) if so, the Regional Censor Boards reconstituted so far;

(c) whether Cuttack Regional Censor Board has been reconstituted; and

(d) if so, the tenure of Cuttack Regional Censor Board and the criteria for reconstituting the Censor Boards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) to (d) Advisory panels of the Central Board of Film Certification at Bombay, Cuttack, Hyderabad, Madras and Thiruvananthapuram have so far been reconstituted with effect from 1.1.95. The tenure of a member is two years unless curtailed by the Government earlier. Persons from different walks of life such as social science, law, teaching, art etc., who are qualified, in the opinion of the Central Government, to judge the effect of films on the people, are included in the panels.

Closure of cinema halls

106. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the alarming shrinkage of cinema exhibition venues in the country;

(b) if so, what is the number or percentage of cinema houses closed down in Delhi, Bombay and other metropolises and different States and Union Territories; and

(c) what steps have been taken or are being taken to revive the film industry, in the face of encroachment by Cable TVs and illegal Cable-TV parlours?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Licensing of cinema theatres is the prerogative of the State Governments/Union Territory administrations. However, according to the information available in the Films Division, a total of 73 cinema theatres closed down in the entire country between 31st March, 1994 and 31st December, 1994.

(c) It has always been the endeavour of Government to alleviate the problems afflicting the Indian film industry, to the extent possible. The 21st Conference of State Ministers of Information and Cinematography (SIMCON) held in New Delhi on 24.6.94 discussed at length various problems faced by the film industry and *inter-alia* recommended to State Governments/Union Territory administrations to (i) impose tax on video parlours and cable TV networks; (ii) reduce the rates of entertainment tax on cinema; and (iii) introduce the compounding system of entertainment tax on cinema theatres.

Besides, an Ordinance called the "Cable Television Networks (Regulation)" has been promulgated.